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sacrifice. We obey some strong heartfelt impulse in incurring the expense of this gathering." How expensive it was may be gained from the report on salaries. Only twelve men at that time received for their services \$1,000 or upwards and the highest salary in the country was \$1,900, given to the state librarian of Massachusetts. Nevertheless we find these men going forth to spread the doctrine throughout the country and in 1876 they met almost spontaneously to form the association of which you and I are proud. It is no easy task to accomplish the results which have been attained by enthusiasm alone, yet such has been the fascination of our propaganda that it has increased in influence year by year with but one important gift to help the cause, and now in this year of the war we find ourselves the trustees of books and dollars by the million in the effort to preserve civilization in the soldiers' and sailors' rough life. This work has been well done. It has been well done because the former President of the Association had a thorough grasp of the situation and appointed a committee upon which it would have been very hard to improve, and that committee being thus intelligently

constituted knew that the Librarian of Congress should be given the widest latitude in prosecuting the work. I shall refrain from speaking of the events of the past year. The future I have consigned to one far abler than I, but I should like to bring this before you. After the war is over, where are the youths of the nations to assemble to accomplish their post-graduate work under competent supervision? It is not likely that they will submit themselves to the influence linked with the Prussian propaganda. England cannot receive them. France is far-spent. It may be that America may be called upon, with its great educational foundations, to provide a center for the students of the whole civilized world. God grant that she may prove equal to the demands which may be made upon her! It is evident that the German language is to be driven from our schools. I hope that Portuguese and Spanish may be substituted, so that we may understand our neighbors to the south and thus lead up to a United States of America extending from Tierra del Fuego to the Arctic Ocean, its citizens fighting shoulder to shoulder for the protection of the rights of man.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

BY CHARLES B. ALEXANDER, *Regent of the University of the State of New York*

Conscious as I am of the honor accorded me as the representative of the Regents of the University of the State of New York, really representing the State of New York, of extending a word of welcome to this distinguished conference of the American Library Association, yet it is with a new spirit of appreciative understanding that I bring to you the greetings of the governing Board of our educational system.

I feel an added pride in greeting you in renowned and historic Saratoga. This region has a particular interest to us at this time when our minds are so often turning

for inspiration to the glories of our past history and to the heroes who made us a nation. This region, because of its wonderful water routes, has been the great strategic point in the wars waged for the control of this continent. The battles of Saratoga in 1777 and the surrender of General Burgoyne broke up the great campaign which was planned to sever and conquer the warring colonies; they aroused great enthusiasm throughout the country, and were the determining event which led France to form the alliance which assured our independence. George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, George Clinton and

Philip Schuyler are early names in the long list of distinguished personages who have enjoyed the benefits and pleasures of this great resort. One may drink deep of patriotism, too, at these Pierian springs.

I am, however, here primarily to extend to you the cordial invitation of the Regents of the University of the State of New York to visit another historic place, a few miles south of us. This year we celebrate the centennial of the New York State library. We feel a pardonable pride in its history—in its growth and achievement and service to the educational life of our State. There is needed only your presence to make this the notable occasion we wish it to be and which we believe it deserves to be in the library and educational history of the country. We expect to have the honor of welcoming you at Albany next Saturday, July 6, 1918.

Merely to glance over your program is to gain an inspiring realization of the myriad activities of our libraries which touch all phases of the nation's life, and of their efficient adaptation to the great emergency which we face. The theme of your program is the war and your consideration will be the utmost utilization of your organized activities in bringing the victory that will assure the permanence of the institutions built by the world-old struggle for freedom and human happiness.

The French Army has a saying: *Pourvu que les civils tiennent*; that is, that victory is certain, "if the civilians hold out." I have wondered if this aphorism was born of the bitterness of those whose lot it was to suffer and die or of a deep understanding of the essential truth of it. We have looked with a horrible loathing at the travesty on civilization which prostituted the entire efficiency of a modern nation's social and economic life to the work of consuming and destroying. But the enemy has employed brute force as his fundamental argument and we have no alternative but to answer it in kind. To-day nations war, with all their stupendous and marvelously organized forces. Lloyd George has said that he feared the thor-

ough organization of Germany's civil life, educated and drilled during a generation to obedience and efficiency, more than the armed forces of the enemy. Our armies cannot be defeated if your civil population, their indispensable foundation, is strong and unyielding. The democracies of the world, which live in the intelligent support of the people, are warring with a power which exacts a blind, pitifully blind, obedience of its myrmidons. It is a matter of training, of education. This is well recognized. Everywhere posters confront us, exhorting, admonishing, advising; the government disseminates information throughout the land; public speakers provide enlightening knowledge; our great, free press is ubiquitous. The people must be informed—must be taught what to do and how to do—to conserve and bring to bear the great, latent strength of the nation.

In this world conflict the war has illumined things hitherto unnoticed. Among other things, it has illumined the idea of duty. Today this does not consist in doing the immediate thing for which one is employed, but in doing the best thing possible in the service of the nation. This was well illustrated when one of our officers checked the advance of the foe the other day by marshaling around him certain cooks and other camp followers. The cooks might very well have said that they were not there to fight but to cook, but each man of the miscellaneous gathering surrounding the officer left his immediate occupation and they baffled the foe. So for example the idea of sacrifice, which until the war was treated by many as an obsolete function; but now with millions making sacrifices and ready to make the great sacrifice, the world is enlightened. So also the old phrase, "a life for a life," is constantly illustrated, as it was the other day where the enlisted man carried his officer along the deck, and just as he got the officer in a place of safety was himself killed.

In the ability to reach, educate and affect the adult population the library occu-

ples a position of great responsibility and is a great power for national defense. This situation, which offers our libraries the greatest opportunity in their history to demonstrate their educational value to the nation has been fully realized and thoroughly acted upon by the American Library Association.

With its watchword, "War service," this Association has bent its fullest energies to the duty, and its splendid work forms an inspiring chapter in the history of the war. Educational results are mostly indeterminate, but some tangible accomplishments are noted with marveling gratification. I wish all of our people could know of the great fund raised for the war work; of the acquisition of innumerable books; of the erection of the many library buildings and the establishment of branch libraries in our camps; of the library work in hospitals; of the technical and recreative books placed in our forts, naval vessels, camps, and sent abroad; of the labor and time given by trained men to the

work; and of the other countless activities of the "Library war service." It is demonstrated that the library provides as high and important a war service as any other field of effort.

To many this realization of the great power and influence of the library comes with some surprise. The extraordinary development of this branch of our educational system has not been generally comprehended. Indeed, it is a far cry from the modest beginning of the American Library Association in that convention at Philadelphia in 1876 to this great business organization which affects our entire educational and social life. By its progressive methods, this Association has established the public library as a familiar and potent agent of our civilization; and it has made library work a science indeed, efficient, economical, practical. And one has only to study the library history of Europe to realize that you have done pioneer work, and furnished a vitalizing spirit to the library life of the world.

THE FUTURE OF LIBRARY WORK

By ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK, *Librarian, St. Louis Public Library*

When a railroad train is on its way, its future history depends on which way it is heading, on its speed, and on whether its direction and its speed will remain unchanged. With these premises, one may confidently predict that a train which left Chicago at a given hour on one day will reach New York at a given hour on the next. Of course, something may happen to slow the train, or to wreck it, or even to send it back to Chicago, in which cases our predictions will come to naught. This is what the weather man finds. His predictions are based on very similar data. Our weather conditions travel usually across the continent from west to east at a fairly uniform rate. If that rate is maintained, and the direction does not change, and nothing happens to dissipate or alter the

conditions, we can predict their arrival at a given place with a fair degree of accuracy. Those who rail at the weather man's mistakes are simply finding fault with our present inability to ascertain the causes that slow up storm centers, or swerve them in their course, or dissipate them. When we know these things, and know in addition what starts them, we can give up making forecasts and write out a pretty definite weather time-table—as definite and as little subject to change, at any rate, as those issued by the railroads.

My business at this moment is that of a forecaster. We know just where and what the library situation is at present, and some of us think we know where it is headed. If it should keep on in the same direction and at the same rate, we ought to